

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

May 29, 2001

Mr. Andrew T. Silfer
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
100 Woodlawn Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Re: GE Building 8/8E Disposition of Demolition Debris at the OPCAs, General Electric (GE) Housatonic River Project Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the above-referenced letter Proposal for GE Building 8/8E Disposition of Demolition Debris at the OPCAs (On-Plant Consolidation Areas), dated 24 May 2001.

This proposal for GE Building 8/8E Disposition of Demolition Debris at the OPCAs is subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Consent Decree (CD) that was entered in U.S. District Court on October 27, 2000.

Pursuant to Paragraph 73 of the CD, the EPA approves the above referenced submittal subject to the following conditions:

EPA intends to provide oversight of the pre-demolition activities involving identification of machinery, equipment or other devices that may contain free-liquids or product; asbestos-containing material; devices containing liquid mercury; and utilities. GE shall notify EPA a minimum of 7 days prior to conducting these activities, provide access to Buildings 8/8E and coordinate the inspections with EPA oversight personnel.

2. EPA intends to inspect the former (March and April 1999) building material sampling locations in Buildings 8 and 8E. GE shall conduct a walk-through of the buildings with EPA personnel or their oversight contractor prior to demolition so the appropriateness of the existing building material sampling locations can be determined. PCB concentrations exceeding 1000 ppm (maximum of 7600 ppm) were detected at several sampling locations and EPA wants to inspect these areas.

3. It is anticipated that this effort would be conducted at the same time as the pre-demolition inspections (see Condition 1).
4. GE shall perform all asbestos inspections and abatement in accordance with all applicable Federal and Massachusetts State laws and regulations.
5. All openings through the Building 8/8E foundation/slab will be sealed - where practical, prior to bringing the final base up to grade after demolition. This effort will help to ensure that any potential volatile contaminants below the building slabs do not migrate to the surface and pose a threat to future workers at that location.
6. The construction of the final grading associated with the demolition of Buildings 8 and 8E shall be considered as temporary and not the final remedy until all requirements of the Consent Decree Statement of Work (SOW) have been addressed. After evaluation of the area as required in the SOW (Attachments D and E) the final cover for this area shall comply with Attachment G for capping, engineered barriers and other surface covers.

EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling at Building 8/8E and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1268.

Sincerely,



Michael Nalipinski
Remedial Project Manager
GE Facility

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